

Current Claims Schedule

1-59 (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) A method of electronically negotiating an electronic negotiable document, ~~having a value and sold by a seller to a buyer~~ transferred along a chain of sellers and buyers, wherein said electronic negotiable document has a value which is an amount of money or quantity of goods, and wherein said seller is not a bank, the method comprising:

~~providing~~ issuing from a trusted supplier said seller with seller tamper-resistant document carrier hardware, said seller tamper-resistant document carrier hardware having its own public-secret key pair, and wherein said secret key is not accessible to said seller, said tamper-resistant document carrier hardware bearing said electronic negotiable document and a signature calculated using said secret key;

~~providing~~ issuing from a trusted supplier said buyer with buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware, said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware having its own public-secret key pair, and wherein said secret key is not accessible to said buyer;

transferring said electronic negotiable document from said seller tamper-resistant document carrier hardware to said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware;

splitting the original value of said electronic negotiable document electronically in said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware ~~into two or more new electronic negotiable documents each having a value such that the sum of said two or more values of the new electronic negotiable documents adds up to said value of said electronic negotiable document~~ by creating two or more split versions of said electronic negotiable document each with a new sequence number;

~~digitally signing said splitting using said secret key of said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware to generate a splitting signature; and, without settlement of an account with a said bank,~~

~~negotiating said new electronic negotiable documents separately to one or more further buyers without the involvement of a trusted third party (TTP);~~

~~wherein said digitally signing of said splitting comprises subjecting each said new electronic negotiable document to said secret key of said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware; and~~

~~wherein said electronic negotiable document and said new electronic negotiable documents each have an associated sequence number, and wherein said electronic negotiable document, including a said associated sequence number, is signed by a said secret key, and wherein each of said new electronic negotiable documents, each including a said associated sequence number, is signed by a said secret key.~~

inputting to said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware, now acting as a seller tamper-resistant document carrier hardware, values defining values of each new said split version, wherein each new said split version comprises the signature of the original electronic negotiable document, and wherein each new said split version has a value such that the sum of the values of said two or more split versions adds up to said value of said original electronic negotiable document;

digitally signing said split versions using said secret key of said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware acting as a seller tamper-resistant document carrier hardware to generate a splitting signature; and

transferring said two or more split versions separately to one or more further buyers without the involvement of a trusted third party;

wherein each of said further buyers is able to transfer a said split version to one or more buyers in the chain.

61-62 (Cancelled)

63. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 6260 wherein said seller and said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware each have a document carrier identifier, and wherein each said document carrier identifier is signed by a said secret key.

64. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 60 wherein said seller tamper-resistant document carrier hardware bears an issuing signature, and wherein said transferring includes transferring said issuing signature from said seller tamper-resistant document carrier hardware to said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware.

65. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 64 further comprising deleting said issuing signature after said transferring.

66-67 (Cancelled)